

Dumont Dunes TRT  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 16, 2006

Bureau of Land Management  
Barstow Field Office  
Conference Room  
2601 Barstow Road  
Barstow, CA 92311  
(760) 252-6000

1. Call to Order

TRT Chairman Bill Presch called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

A. Introductions

Members of the TRT and participating BLM staff introduced themselves:

TRT Members Present:

Dr. William Presch, member, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Sheri Davis, commercial filming, member, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Terry Allen, Nevada off-highway vehicle (OHV) interests  
Kathleen Stosuy, California OHV interests  
Gerry Hillier, San Bernardino County  
Randy Banis, other motorized recreation  
John Dalglish, Friends of Dumont Dunes

BLM Staff Present:

Roxie Trost, Manager, Barstow Field Office  
Lynnette Elser, Recreation Chief, Barstow Field Office  
Dave Brenner, Law Enforcement Ranger, Barstow Field Office

TRT Members Absent:

Jim Bramham, OHV organizations  
David Charlton, member, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Ron Schiller, member, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Ed Waldheim, California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

An agenda was circulated by Bill Presch, and there were no additions or changes to the agenda.

## B. Minutes

Randy Banis circulated copies of draft minutes for the TRT's March 21, 2006 meeting. Randy offered corrections submitted by Kathy Stosuy regarding the topic of Supplemental Rules. The minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

### 2. DAC Field Trip to Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area

Bill Presch described a field trip to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area by members of the American Sand Association for members of the Desert Advisory Council on March 31, 2006. Tour destinations included campgrounds, Oldsmobile Hill, Competition Hill, and Osbourn Point. The group toured on foot areas closed to motor vehicles, and also enjoyed lunch at the Glamis Store.

At the DAC's public session on Saturday they heard a presentation by the ASA. They reviewed the USF&WS denial of the CBD's petition to list the Andrews' dune scarab beetle as an endangered species, and reviewed a petition by ASA/AMA/CORVA/ORBA to remove the Piersons milk vetch from the endangered species list.

Bill Presch reported that ASA leadership has given the Dumont TRT permission to use the slogan "If you want to stay and play, take your trash away". Also, the ASA requested greater consistency among motor vehicle recreation areas regarding rules and policies, for example pallet burning, grey water dumping, and trash hauling. Roxie Trost discussed the challenges behind this concept, requiring each recreation area to adopt the same rules and technology.

Lastly, Bill Presch reported that he was impressed by the lack of impact of motor vehicle use on biological resources, finding most usage occurring along the main road with little to no use in the interior of the dunes.

Randy Banis noted two recent favorable portrayals of OHV recreation by the media: a series on the Imperial Sand Dunes by Fox News, and Huell Howser's visit to the Slash X Cafe for his California's Gold series on PBS.

Members briefly discussed their projections on how recent gasoline price increases might affect use patterns at Dumont Dunes. The OHV user representatives concluded that they would have little to no effect at the current price level. Significantly higher fuel prices in the future might lead to fewer but longer stays.

### 3. Petition to Declare Dumont Dunes as Critical Habitat

Bill Presch reviewed the CBD petition to USF&WS to declare Dumont Dunes as critical habitat for the Mojave fringe-toed lizard. Rules require USF&WS within 90 days to find sufficient or insufficient cause to continue their review. The petition asserts that the Ibex/Coyote Hole/Dumont Dunes population is genetically distinct and unique. However, this is backed only by one unpublished study that has not been peer reviewed. Therefore, Bill Presch predicted that the petition would not succeed.

Roxie Trost discussed the Barstow Field Office's efforts to collect and assemble data to forward to USF&WS, and stressed the importance of data collection projects to fend off future challenges to motor vehicle use in the Dumont Dunes Recreation Area.

Bill Presch discussed his role in the long term data collection that he is conducting on the Mojave fringe-toed lizard. He explained that his recent survey of Little Dumont Dunes found no Mojave fringe-toed lizards. Surveys will soon be conducted in the Razor OHV Recreation Area, Devils Playground and Kelso Dunes.

Studies of the Afton Canyon area suggests that the recent flooding of the Mojave River by water management agencies may have removed much of the blow sand that could have been habitat for the Mojave fringe-toed lizard as few were located there.

Gerry Hillier provided historical background on the planning processes in the 1970's and 1980's that identified Dumont Dunes and Rice Dunes as the most appropriate dunes for OHV activity. It was also noted that the CBD filing is the first direct challenge of OHV activity at Dumont Dunes.

With no objection, Bill Presche adjourned for a brief break at 11:30 am. The meeting was called back to order at 11:45 am.

#### 4. Supplemental Rules Committee Report

John Dalglish reported that the Supplemental Rules Committee met via email with BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Dave Brenner and concluded, in general, that existing laws already cover the concerns that proposed supplemental rules would have addressed. In particular, California motor vehicle code 8365.1-3(a) & (b)(1). This would particularly apply to Rhinos, except that it would not restrict passengers riding in the back bed. This activity would have to be prohibited by a supplemental rule such as that adopted at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

Golf carts cannot qualify for a green sticker but have been allowed under courtesy because their use has not caused trouble. The OHV representatives noted that golf carts are rapidly being replaced by the more popular Rhinos, which do qualify for registration as an OHV.

Terry Allen re-expressed his concerns over the dangers posed by visitor employing metal and wood stakes to mark campsite boundaries. John Dalglish reviewed committee discussions regarding a possible supplemental rule prohibiting metal stakes but allowing flexible reflective markers. Roxie Trost cautioned that this might encourage even more users to mark and save space for their campsite and suggested rewording such a rule by stating what is prohibited rather than suggesting what is allowed.

The group discussed restroom cleaning, as at the last meeting the TRT decided to hire out this service for the summer. Roxie Trost reported that the contract for this had not yet been negotiated, and noted that they were not cleaned during May and had not yet been closed.

Roxie Trost suggested an educational campaign by Friends of Dumont Dunes similar to that of the ASA. Randy Banis suggested smaller first steps, perhaps a flyer, and offered fundraising assistance.

Roxie Trost reported that staff received excellent cooperation from concessioners regarding relocating their vending activities to a more appropriate area.

Bill Presch suggested the possibility of Friends of Dumont Dunes manning a booth in the concession area. Roxie Trost shared her desire for better BLM outreach perhaps via a table that could be co-manned by Friends of Dumont Dunes. Terry Allen reminded the committee of the successful information dissemination campaign employed by the BLM during the first weekend of fee collection at Dumont Dunes. All committee members agreed that an etiquette campaign would be helpful.

Bill Presch summarized the discussion and referred the matter of an educational program to the Friends of Dumont Dunes for their input and comments.

Bill Presch moved, and Terry Allen seconded, that the TRT accept the Supplemental Rules Committee report recommending:

- first using existing laws before issuing supplemental rules
- working in conjunction with an FODD who would spearhead a dunes etiquette educational campaign

With no objections, the motion passed.

#### 5. Budget Update

Lynnette Elser circulated a budget update and explained how charge backs and ear marks affected the budget for Dumont Dunes. The law enforcement staff salary charges were removed from the 1232CF07 (Dumont fee) account and charged to the 1220 (recreation) account. These charges were acceptable in either account. The change allows BLM to better utilize the funding in the 1232CF07 account. Lynnette also reviewed grant requests for Operations and Maintenance and for Law Enforcement.

Terry Allen inquired as to the process for funding major improvements, particularly those that might be long term, such as widening the Amargosa River crossing. Lynnette Elser reported that major projects can be funded via the Federal budget process, but noted that projects related to improving health and safety concerns receive the highest score. An example is for the \$690,000 request for a heli pad in FY08. Lynnette stated she would review the scoring criteria at the next meeting.

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Roxie Trost reported that an environmental assessment and/or Army Corps of Engineering review might be necessary for widening the river crossing. However, authority for this might also be contained in an earlier programmatic NEPA review, and this would be looked into.

6. Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting:  
Tuesday, July 18, 2006, 10:00 AM  
BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room

7. Adjournment

By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Banis  
Secretary, Dumont Dunes Technical Review Team

APPROVED on July 18, 2006